

Abstract

Distributive justice in the health sector in the context of the rationalization of health care

This paper should briefly introduce the major principle of health service in the Czech Republic but also practised in most developed countries. Distributive justice is a system of accumulating and redistributing wealth in order to seek balance in society. In health sector it is most commonly associated with rationing i.e. distribution of limited and costly medical sources among those who are in need of medical care in a justifiable way. Not to be mistaken distributive justice with social justice even though there is a fine line between the two.

The thesis is divided into fifteen chapters each describing certain aspect of distributive justice in the health sector or a related issue. Opening chapters are dedicated to theoretical, historical and philosophical overview; following part contains single elements of distributive justice both in general and in context of health care. Issues of medical standards and regulatory charges are discussed in subsequent chapters with regard to recent case law of the Constitutional court.

In conclusion the problem of distributive justice in health care can be approached from two different points - communitarian and liberal. These issues are also political, philosophical and legal problems. A balanced approach providing the best possible health care to as many as economically feasible and guaranteeing resources for dynamic progress in medical science is a widely recognized goal of public health care. Only by making economies and direct participation of patients such scenario is conceivable. First of all it is clearly the financing of medical service, make effort to cut costs and find other ways to gain means for the system of medical financing outside of health insurance as the most equitable method of financing. And secondly the demand for medical service should be definitely taken into consideration as one of the most influencing factors of leaking medical funds. Therefore less major rationing decisions in matter of choosing who will get what service are required.